

March 13, 2007

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on March 13, 2007 by Chairman Callen at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Craft, Clutter, Griffith, Virobik and Chairman Callen

Absent: Commissioner Cardella

Staff: Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass
Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand (left meeting at 9:40 a.m.)

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Griffith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith provided the inspiration:

Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to press your luck.

Author Unknown

Commissioner Griffith also showed a recent newspaper announcement of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology.

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved, Commissioner Breaker seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 13, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Virobik requested that the last sentence on Page 1, be amended to read as follows: "Commissioner Virobik thanked Ms. Dean for her *dedication* and work on the Transportation Committee."

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved, Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 13, 2007, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Callen introduced Principal Librarian Hillary Theyer and Senior Librarian Phillip Ross. They both conveyed their hope is to send a Library representative to the Commission's monthly meetings, as well as to other City meetings to ensure the Library is aware of the needs of seniors.

Chairman Callen spoke on the importance of getting the word out to seniors (about library services available) and shared that whenever he attends senior expositions, he sees Mr. Ross disseminating Library information, which is wonderful.

Commissioner Griffith noted that she always finds the Library employees to be so helpful, and suggested that someone from the Library submit their name to serve on the Commission when a seat is open.

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported that the City Council approved the reconfiguration and staggering of terms for the Commission on Aging. She also reported that the City Council addressed an appeal on a proposed addition to a house near Torrance Beach. Commissioner Griffith explained that the appeal related to obstruction of views and the discussion focused on what actually constitutes as view; the City Council ultimately decided to not permit the addition.

B. Housing

Commissioner Griffith shared that she is still pursuing the idea of shared housing as she sees it as a real benefit to seniors who are independent and want to remain in their home. The program entails a person who is matched up with a senior to live in their home rent free for the commitment of 10 hours of assistance per week. She shared that the programs are all over the country and that she has contacted the National Housing Authority and will forward the information to the City Council. The Commission further discussed the benefits and particulars of the program, with Commissioner Craft noting that medical students would be good candidates for such a program. Commissioner Virobik suggested that the Commission submit a request to City Council asking that a formal committee be established to address this issue. Chairman Callen asked that Commissioners Griffith and Virobik continue to work on this issue and report back at the April meeting.

Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass indicated that applications for the Home Make Over program for a senior resident in Torrance is due March 30th.

C. Health

Commissioner Clutter spoke on a recent article he read regarding pneumonia and how surprised he was to find out that 70% of deaths at Torrance Memorial are related to the illness. He talked of his recent stay at Torrance Memorial whereby a person sharing his room had pneumonia. He questioned hospital staff about segregation for contagious illnesses and was told they did not have such a thing.

Sharing that his wife's friend came down with shingles, Chairman Callen relayed that he called various county and city facilities and was told they do not have the vaccination, but it is forthcoming.

Commissioner Clutter also relayed an incident he witnessed involving a disabled person who was struggling with their wheelchair and received no assistance from the taxi driver. He explained that after helping the individual he asked the driver why he did not offer assistance, and was told by the driver that he didn't have to.

Chairman Callen stated that the incident represents elder abuse and should have been reported. He shared that companions are available in such instances and asked staff if someone from Transportation can attend a future meeting.

Commissioner Craft spoke on the importance of getting information out to the public to make seniors aware of what their rights are.

Commissioner Griffith talked of a wonderful, informational "Create Better-Endings" seminar on the "Myths of Pain Management" she attended at Torrance Memorial, which addressed the many myths surrounding pain and ways to manage it during the end of life.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Griffith spoke on a South Bay Council of Governments meeting on mobility options for the South Bay, sharing that she and her husband tried out Segways and feel they are a wonderful way to get around.

As a follow up to Commissioner Cardella's comments and concerns at the February meeting on taxi cabs drivers treating those paying cash different from those with tickets, Commissioner Virobik relayed that Enny Chung of Torrance Transit responded that operators at the taxi cab company need to know how payment will be made for reporting purposes only. Some taxi cabs only accept cash, others tickets. The operator contacts the taxi driver accordingly. Regarding timelines of responding to a call at Torrance Memorial, some drivers have difficulty finding exactly where the senior is waiting in the complex, and Ms. Chung is thinking it might be a good idea to identify only one pick up point. Commissioner Virobik shared that she has suggested to Ms. Chung that volunteers be used to

take the senior to the pick up spot to lessen the confusion. Commissioner Virobik concluded by stating that Ms. Chung will continue to work on these issues with Claire Coignard from Torrance Memorial and will keep the Commission informed accordingly.

E. Cable

Chairman Callen spoke on recent showings of Historic Torrance, The Roaring 90's Plus, and Senior SAG-a lot Saloon Program.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following statistics for the month of February:

- Total number of calls received -- 120
- Total number of documented calls -- 44
(Note: 39 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls -- 76
- Total number of walk-ins -- 22

Of the 44 documented calls,

- 59% were in regard to Housing
- 18.2% were in regard to In-Home Services, and
- 11.4% were for Transportation

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

No reports.

H. Club Reports

1. Senior Citizens Golf Club

Chairman Callen reported that a videotape was made showing four of the Club's best golfers putting on a 9 hole exhibition and included information on how to become a Club member.

2. Walteria Senior Citizens Club

Commissioner Breaker shared that all is well at the Club.

8. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Chairman Callen distributed his letter nominating Commissioner Virobik for the 2007 Older Americans Award. .

Commissioner Virobik thanked Chairman Callen for the nomination, and shared that she may be unable to attend the awards ceremony due to an upcoming medical procedure.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved, Chairman Callen seconded, to nominate Commissioner Virobik as a candidate for the Older Americans Recognition Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Per Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass's inquiry regarding attendance, Chairman Callen confirmed that Commissioners Craft and Cardella will attend along with three guests for Commissioner Virobik.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Griffith announced that the United States Air Force Woodwind Quartet will present a free concert on March 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the James Armstrong Theatre, and that the Torrance Symphony will also be presenting a free concert at the James Armstrong Theatre on March 17th.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. to Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

Approved as Submitted April 10, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
